

**City of Milpitas
Economic Development Commission
Monday, January 9, 2006**

APPROVED MINUTES

- I. Flag Salute:** Vice Chairman Frank De Smidt led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance after Chairman Dhaval Brahmbhatt called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.
- II. Roll Call:** Commissioners present: Dhaval Brahmbhatt, Frank De Smidt, Donald Peoples, Tomo Tuong Nguyen, Barbara Santos, Charlene Tsao, and Ray Maglalang.

Commissioners Absent: Vince Songcayawon, Pat Songsiri, and Minh Nguyen.

Council Liaison: Mayor Jose Esteves. City Staff: Diana Whitecar.

III. Announcements:

Vice Chair De Smidt: 1) January 13, 2006 “Good Morning Milpitas”
2) Chamber of Commerce’s March 3, 2006 Crab Feed, 3) January 26 Chamber Mixer @ Optima, 4) January 30, 2006 Gene Schwab luncheon and city employee award recipient – Christopher Schaller in Neighborhood Services, 5) February 1st Chamber Business Marketing, 6) Heritage of India grand opening on January 23rd and 7) Induction of new Planning Commissioners on January 11th.

Commissioner Maglalang: Presented the annual student exchange hosted by the Lions Club. Exchange will occur June 24th to July 29th and they are seeking 17 to 21 youths for the program as well as host families for two-week stints. February 28th is deadline for applications. He is also meeting with Milpitas High School on this program.

Commissioner Peoples: distributed information on TEN, The Enterprise Network, a very successful incubator in South San Jose.

Chair Brahmbhatt: 1) upcoming IEEE meeting on January 17th featuring a speaker on the medical applications of nanotechnology, 2) noted that the City of Fremont Economic Development Commissioners were able to travel to India as part of their Commissioner role; 3) announced the final report of the nanotechnology task force. Their education recommendations included that starting in elementary school there should be 1 hour of math and 1 hour of science.

Commissioner Tsao announced that her restaurant, Sushi Lovers, would be closed until April with the completion of the Town Center Phase I improvements.

Mayor Esteves updated the Commission on the Roadmap for Service Improvement and honored the Commission on including the same as part of the Economic Strategy and Action Plan.

IV. Citizens Forum - no comments.

V. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the Agenda - M/S: De Smidt/Tsao. Ayes: Brahmbhatt, De Smidt, T.T. Nguyen, Santos, Maglalang, Tsao and Peoples. Noes: none. Absent: Songsiri, Songcayawon and M. Nguyen.

VI. Minutes: Commissioner T.T. Nguyen asked for a change to the minutes on Page 2, paragraph 3 to reflect his request for an alternative to the freeway signs. Motion to approve the minutes as amended - M/S: Maglalang/Santos. Ayes: Brahmbhatt, De Smidt, T.T. Nguyen, Santos, Maglalang, Tsao, Peoples. Noes: none. Absent: Songsiri, Songcayawon and Nguyen.

VII. Unfinished Business:

1. Economic Strategic Plan: Recommend Approval of Draft Implementation Plan (see attached plan)

Goal 1: Improve Milpitas' Image as a Place to Live, Work and Shop. Commissioner T.T. Nguyen indicated that if the Stakeholder Committee could be formed within the next 12 months, he could support the recommendations. He also requested that the Stakeholder Committee should work on the public relations and market program. Commissioner Maglalang requested that WiFi be included in Objective 1.

Goal 3: Balance Housing Supply with Demand for Housing by Local Workers: Commissioner Maglalang requested that this goal include language supporting the conversions of apartments to condominiums. Vice Chair De Smidt indicated that the City did address this about 15 years ago and that it seemed redundant to include it in the Action Plan.

At this point the Commission discussed whether they wanted to go thorough the proposed Action Plan point by point, as they were familiar with it and it included issues they had addressed earlier. Mayor Esteves suggested that at some point you needed to make a decision and move forward.

M/S: Maglalang/De Smidt: Approve the proposed Action Plan with the changes requested by Commissioner T.T. Nguyen and including WiFi as part of the Action Plan.

Ayes: Brahmabhatt, De Smidt, Maglaland, Tsao, Peoples, Santos, T.T. Nguyen. Noes: none. Abstain: none.

Ms. Whitecar thanked the Commission and indicated that she would present the proposed Action Plan to the City Council on February 7, 2006.

2. Wireless Milpitas Update: Ms. Whitecar reported on discussions with Earthlink to provide citywide wireless services and that MetroFi had also approached the City to provide the same. It was agreed that this would be a standing update on the agenda.
3. Bylaws/Modifications: Commission Maglaland expressed interest Commission rotations to bring new insights into a group and to be exposed to more aspects of City Government. Commissioner Peoples suggested amending the Bylaws could be included in an EDC Work Plan as an administrative area and that it include a budget. The Commission agreed to this approach and agreed that this item would not be included in future agendas.

VIII. New Business

1. EDC Work Plan: Commissioners agreed that the subcommittee approach was the correct strategy for EDC future work and requested that the next meeting be primarily devoted to reviewing the appropriate subcommittees. It was suggested to start with the former Subcommittees and to check the Brown Act regarding meetings of subcommittees.
2. Redevelopment Five Year Implementation Plan: Commissioner T.T. Nguyen requested, and all Commissioners agreed, that it would help to have a study session/tutorial on city and redevelopment finances.
3. Doing Business in Milpitas Workshop: Commissioner Maglaland requested that the Realtors groups be included in the workshop.
4. EDC Managers Report: Ms. Whitecar updated the Commission on her activities outside those noted in prior items. This includes working on the Permit Streamlining efforts, working with Piercey Toyota for a Milpitas location, meeting with State Employment Training Panel employees on funding assistance available to businesses.
5. CAC Survey: Commissioners and Mr. Ruth requested that the Survey be sent again to them.

6. Roadmap for Service Improvements: Ms. Whitecar updated the Commission on the Council discussion and the Mayor's commendation of the EDC in their leadership in this area.
 7. Business Closures: Commissioner Tsao reiterated that Sushi Lovers would reopen in April 2006.
 8. Cinema Savers: Ms. Whitecar advised the EDC that she would be meeting with the owners of the Serra Center as part of her business outreach efforts.
- IX.** Next Meeting: The next standing meeting of the EDC is a City Holiday, so the meeting was moved to February 15, 2006.
- X.** Adjournment: M/S – De Smidt/Maglalang. Unanimous at approximately 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Whitecar
Economic Development Manager